

Abstract:

Demographic and suicide methods study in suicide victims and suicide incidence in Ardabil province since 1997 – 2006.

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Introduction: Suicide is an important public health problem representing one of the first ten leading cause of death in the world. The purpose of this study was to describe demographic characteristics and methods have been used by suicide victims and to estimate suicide mortality rates that occurred in Ardabil in the period 1997 – 2006.

Method: This is a cross-sectional study. Data on deaths by suicide that occurred in Ardabil from 1997 to 2006 were obtained from the Legal medicine center that maintain registries of Ardabil all suicide deaths. Reports contained sociodemographic information, characteristics of death and the method used. We calculated mortality rate and rate ratio in order to compare age, sex and area specific rates.

Results: During the period 1997-2006 a total of 185 suicides death occurred in Ardabil. The mean age was 29.6 ± 15 years old and 73.5% of victims were male. 73% of them was from urban area. The suicide mortality rate was 4.2 per 100000 . For the recorded years, the rates of suicide mortality had a decreasing trend. The rate ratio of male suicide to female was 2.5 and rural to urban was 1.3 Hanging, poisoning and burning were the most common methods used among victims.

Conclusion: The study shows that suicide rates in Ardabil are lower compared with national rates with a decreasing trend and in contrast of most studies the suicide mortality rates in rural area of Ardabil are higher than urban area.

Key words: Demographic; suicide method; Incidence; Ardabil.